



GARS News

October, 1994

GARS News

This Month:

New Members.....	p.2
Meeting Minutes.....	p.5
Upgrade Fever.....	p.6
Rookie Radio.....	p.9
VE Statistics.....	p.9
Ham Riddles.....	p.10
ARES News.....	p.10
and Much, Much, Much, Much, Much, Much more...	

Page 1

UPGRADING YOUR LICENSE

by: Steve Sims, KD4WAK/AA

When I think of all of the studying that I have done to try and get that advanced ticket, an old saying comes to mind. I read it on a poster on a wall of a service station I visited recently.

It claimed that perseverance was a quality of mankind that outstrips all other qualities of mankind even brilliance, ambition, and innate ability.

The toughest part of upgrading for

many of us is getting past element 1B - the 13 WPM Morse code exam.

I started out with the no code technician license, and began studying the Morse code with some tapes that I got from Duane, KD4KCR (before he became a VE - it is inappropriate for VE's to give out study material, and possibly illegal.)

I then purchased Morse Academy from HRO and began to study both the Morse code and the material for the General written test. I then tried the 5 WPM Morse code test and failed it. However, my brother, KE4GXS and I

(UPGRADE, continued on p.3)

The PRESIDENT'S PEN by Howard Gould, W4NQY

Well our club is still building and going strong, as evident from the membership roster which is over 150 as of the last meeting.

New Hams are flocking to our nest in hopes of learning something about Ham Radio, and from what I can gather we are doing everything right to keep them interested enough to stay around.

We have to realize that there are other clubs that are very large in membership and attracting new members with whatever they have to offer in the way of programs for them.

As a club we are doing the right things to keep our membership strong, such as providing support for new Hams, introducing Old Timers to new programs, providing a good Field Day program, providing a course for Emergency Communications, providing a course for Morse Code teaching, providing a course for no code licenses,

providing an in house QSL card clearance center for WAS etc. and providing a good Communications Repeater for the membership to rely upon. In addition to all of that we also have activities that put us into the community for expo-

(PREZ, continued on p.4)



CQ DX - CQ DX, This is the "Little Zipper" from Suwanee GA., - Joe (AD4PZ) Biddle's son, Kevin, obviously does not suffer from "mike fright"... he's just a natural born Ham.

DAVID LIVESAY,

AD4UU

GARS

HAM OF THE MONTH

by Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

The GARS Ham of the month for October is David Livesay, AD4UU. Dave has been in GARS only a short time, but finds his association with GARS to be very enjoyable. He participates in many activities though he lives in Cumming, GA..

Dave recently became a VE with the GARS W5YI-VE Team and served for the first time as such at the last testing session. With the help of Pickett, AD4S David was able to participate in a great deal of the paperwork and even sign some certificates and 610 forms... the first time he had ever been able to do that for another ham (or soon-to-be-ham).

Dave lives in Cumming with his wife, Linda and his fifteen year old son, who has recently passed his no-code Technician exam. Dave also has a twelve year old daughter living in Texas.

He holds the position of Information Services Product Manager for the Hewlett Packard Corporation.

He runs a Yaesu 530 HT on VHF and an Icom 765 for his HF rig. Even though his subdivision restricts antennas, that does not stop Dave, however. His attic looks like anybody's normal antenna farm with a G5RV, an aircraft monitor antenna, a TV antenna and a two-meter quad. He is currently trying to figure out how to squeeze another antenna to work sat-

(HAM, continued on p.2)

GARS News

Gars News is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit *News* items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the *GARS* conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (903-5487), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM compatible disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

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(HAM, continued from p.1)
ellites with. Along with *GARS*, Dave is a member of the Lanierland Amateur Radio Club and the Sawnee Mountain Repeater Group as well.

He spends a lot of his operating time on two-meter repeaters and on HF operating GTOR with a friend back in Detroit Michigan from where came. He also enjoys operating the RS-12 Russian Satellite.

During the last years that he spent in Detroit he had not done much with amateur radio, nor did he foresee becoming active when he moved here. Alas, he did become interested and once again became active. Then he realized the home he'd bought was in a subdivision with antenna restrictions.

Dave and Linda plan to stay in that home for the next four years until their son finishes high school when they will move somewhere he can put a tower up. Dave looks forward to that day, but he knows what is important as far as his son is concerned. ♦

Recently, we received a nice letter from Frank Butler, W4RH. He is the ARRL Director for the southeast division.

Frank says he reads and enjoys the *GARS News* every month, and had some input to an article we ran recently. The article was about reading old issues of QST and other magazines, where the observation was made that QST used to be the official organ for the IARU but today does not appear to. Frank writes:

"I queried Larry Price, W4RA, the ARRL International Affairs Vice President about this, and he said it was changed back in 1985. At that time, the IARU Administrative Council decided that the IARU Calendar, (a newsletter) would be designated as the official organ of the IARU. QST is still the "unofficial" organ of the IARU, and is probably read in more countries than any other ham magazine! In most issues, there is the column, Amateur Radio World, which is news of the IARU among other things."

It's nice to be read, trx fer the update, Frank!
Now we have... (with apologies to Paul Harvey) ...the rest of the story. -ED.

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

Another banner month for new members joining *GARS*! Twelve additional members were voted in at the August meeting!

Welcome these new Hams to *GARS*:

Jamie (Robbie) Robertson, KA4ATM of Lawrenceville, GA

Rene Revert, KA4ZAI of Lawrenceville, GA

James Plofchan, KD4OTB of Flowery Branch, GA

Tad Danley, NZ3I of Buford, GA

William Grant, KE4EOS of Hoschton, GA

Geir Hunsbelt, KE4ODG of Norcross, GA

Brian McCarthy, NX9O of Duluth, GA

Annalee McCarthy, N9KHC of Duluth, GA

AWAITING CALLSIGNS - NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Everett Avery of Auburn, GA

Jenny Bouckaert of Suwanee, GA

Lewis Ederhardt of Suwanee, GA

Joan Grant of Hoschton, GA

Take a moment to meet these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED ♦

(UPGRADE, continued from p.1)

passed our 5 WPM together at the testing session in Roswell on Sept 6, 1993. At that time we had purchased our HF rigs and were eager to start communicating; KE4GXS lives in Alabama, and obtained his call as well as the 5 WPM in that same session.

Upon the request of Duane, I began helping out with the Morse code practice after the Want, Swap, Sell, and Information net that GARS holds on 147.075 on Tuesday nights.

As Pickett, AD4S, recalls, the first night I sent the code (using a TNC, of course), I sent a rather unusual text for the 20 WPM practice session. I found it rather hard to believe that anyone could possibly copy text at such a high rate of speed as 20 WPM, so I devised a plan to see if my listeners were really copying it or not.

The text of the practice went something like this:

"I really don't believe that anyone out there can copy code this fast, so I want you to prove it to me by calling me at 921-8847, that's 9218847, right now. If you get a busy signal then just keep trying."

I must have gotten 8 to 10 phone calls in the next several minutes.

Some time later, at a public demonstration at Sam's Club, I was doing a packet demonstration. I put the TNC into CW mode at 35 WPM. Howie, W4NVF, was talking to a group of interested onlookers. While he was demonstrating VHF repeater communications, on a handy-talky I sent "W4NVF, W4NVF, How are you today, Howie?"

You know, I don't think he even stopped talking and at first I thought he had not paid attention, but a moment later he turned around and said, "I'm very fine today, Steve, thank you." I nearly fell off my chair.

After the code practice, it became a regular thing for Duane, and I to meet

on 10 meters and work CW. With his long and patient help, I worked up my speed to about a solid 8, maybe 9 WPM. During this time I was also getting on the Novice portion of 80 meters, and making as many contacts as I could. It was confusing at first and I just copied other QSOs. But, you know, the nicest operators are CW operators. I quickly became unafraid to send QRS 9 (it means please slow down to 9 WPM). And the other operator never failed to quickly oblige.

It really helps to have friends who are learning with you. Besides communicating with my brother who I met regularly on 3.700, I have two friends,



Lets see...ref set - zero the needle - now fwd. LET 'ER RIP, DAD!

Got pictures to share with the others? Give them to Joe, AD4PZ to be scanned and considered for a future issue of the GARS News. -ED

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ, formerly KR4IK, formerly KE4FNI, and Jack Herndon, KE4EMA.

It was in the last several months that I got some very good practice from Joe who stayed up with me into the wee hours pounding the CW brass, and chewing the CW rag. During this time I proceeded to take the 13 WPM together with the General, and then the Advanced written tests.

I passed the General written the first time with difficulty and then passed the Advanced time the second time with even greater difficulty. Each time I went

to the testing sessions I tried the 13 WPM and each time I failed it.

Throughout the following year I practiced with Duane, Joe, and Jack, participated in practice sessions, studied both on the computer and alone. During this year I felt somewhat close and just knew that next time would be the time that I would get lucky.

Near the end of that year, as time approached that my certificates of successful completion of the two written tests were about to expire, I felt the urgency to hurry up and pass the 13 WPM before that happened.

Up until then I took the test a total of seven times and failed it every time.

The seventh test was at Snellville and I left before my test had even been graded, because I knew that I had failed again.

My written tests had expired, and I was going to have to do them over again. Oh well, I guessed I'd just wait until I got the 13 WPM test out of the way and then re-tackle the written's.

At one of my testing sessions a fellow ham introduced me to a few phrases that would help me 'hear' some of the letters with ease. The first phrase was 'To L with it' which when spoken has a rhythm much like di dah di dit.

That and the fact that the letter L is prominent in the phrase stuck with me and I never missed the letter L again. He also mentioned that V sounded like victory 'di di di dah'. I tried to construct other phrases for other letters. One of my own creation that I like was for the letter Y. It goes 'I da know why'.

Just a few weeks ago, Jack Herndon introduced me to a tape study session where the course of study was constructed precisely that way. They also had other helpful suggestions and exercises. There was explanations of what was happening in the brain and why this

(UPGRADE, continued on p.4)

Contact GARS

OFFICERS 1994-1995

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W4NVF Howard Gould 921-8362

Vice President:

KD4QFD Larry Osborne 972-1185

Secretary:

KE4GYM Ike Chapman 339-8123

Treasurer:

WA4QYY Charles Evans 448-0930

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KA4KKF David Adcock 963-5767

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KD4HMC Sam Roundtree 921-7423

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COMMITTEES

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W4IXN:	Richard Barnes	995-7248
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KD4KCR	Duane Hansen	962-6086
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W4NVF	Howie Gould	921-8362
KA4EMV	Bob DeVeau	923-3963
K4HRB	Ron Davidson	466-4932

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W4WKP Johnny Fearon 466-4038

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HAM CLASSES:

KA9UIE Steve Idler 513-0428

HF/VHF/UHF AWARDS MGR:

KE4GGP Don Ennest 923-4851

JOIN GARS

Membership dues for the 1994-1995 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Contact Jack Herndon, KE4EMA at
995-0438 for more information about joining
GARS.

(UPGRADE, continued from p.3)

was faster than other ways.

Jack let me borrow this tape, and I noticed that in the very next GARS practice session that I did better than I ever had before.

I took the test a total of three more times, or ten times in all. When I passed it, I felt so great, like someone who had really worked on something for a year and a half and it had finally paid off.

On that last night, Jack was with me, and he encouraged me to retake the General written right there on the spot. I am glad I did, because I remembered enough to pass the General written again and I was able to get on the General bands that night and have my first HF QSO, as a general class operator.

Just tonight, I passed my Advanced written test again, and I am anticipating going downstairs to have my first QSO with Joe, AD4PZ.

I think that for now, I am going to try to find someone else who is struggling to pass their 13 WPM and start having some Novice band QSOs with them, and encourage them. I know that Jack is very very close to the upgrade right now.

Does anyone want to join us? ♦

(PREZ, continued from p.1)

sure with the various organizations who run bicycle races for charity, various city parades throughout the county, Ham Radio demonstrations both at exposure level for the club at local business sites and at the public school level for the youth in the county. In order for all of these events to take place, we need volunteers to maintain them. In some instances we are strong with an overflow of help, in other instances we are very weak and overloading the little help we receive.

I suppose if we look at from a statistical standpoint, we are not any better than the average club trying to get things done. I personally know that we can do better when we are called upon as individuals to volunteer our time to a club activity because I was also one of those who did not have the time to support club events and always managed to find an excuse to avoid it if I could possibly do so. I felt my membership dues

took care of everything why should I strain myself? How many of you feel the same way? Quite a number I would guess.

Well it's time to get motivated people and I am talking to those of you who always manage to slip by unnoticed while the rest of us get ourselves fired up over some event. We really appreciate your membership dues they keep our bills paid, but how about some support?

We need you on the front line folks, even when we do something that maybe is not a crowd drawer - like for instance the last K-Mart adventure. One thing that happened there was introducing a bunch of Weeblo Scouts to the hobby with the help of their leaders - who saw the blurb Joe, AD4PZ put in the paper about it and brought them out to see us.

We had a fair turnout of GARS members, but not enough. It was a very hot and humid day to be out in the blazing sun trying to demonstrate Ham Radio. The crowd only wanted to head for the store where it was air conditioned so it was almost impossible to get a crowd to our little demo area.

But let me tell you folks those GARS members and non members who showed up were devoted to Ham Radio and proud to show off their hobby. They were also very proud of GARS for the efforts that they were putting forth for our club to increase our membership and to keep our hobby well and alive by reminding folks about the wonderful hobby we have.

I can not say enough about the Hams who showed up for all the past events that GARS has sponsored, but I just know how much more it would have been if each and everyone of us had donated a little time.

When we turn out in numbers it dazzles the imagination of others who are looking at us and we attract interested persons to our gatherings. We are heading into a bike race in September where we need all the help we can get.

Yes folks we do have volunteers and no folks there is not enough and will never be enough in any of our events so join up call David, KA4KKF or Charles, WA4QYY. There is to be ra-

(PREZ, continued on p.5)

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 18, 1994

In attendance: Howard Gould, W4NVF, President; Larry Osborne, KD4QFD, Vice President; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, Secretary; Charles Evans, WA4QYY, Treasurer; David Adcock, KA4KKF, Activities Manager; Dean Matthews, AD4OD, Newsletter Editor.

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 local time at the Red Cross Building in Lawrenceville by President Gould.

Tammy, KE4IKK, asked for volunteers to assist her in demonstrating Amateur Radio at Benefield Elementary and Dyer Elementary during the first two weekends in October.

Introductions of members and visitors took place with 51 members and 14 visitors in attendance.

The meeting was then turned over to David, KA4KKF, who introduced Pat, KC4DOO, the ARES Gwinnett County EC. Pat made a presentation on the current status of ARES in Gwinnett and made available to those in attendance some information on ARES and sign up forms for those interested in ARES. Pat will be conducting training classes for ARES and provided sign up sheets for those that are interested. As part of her presentation, Duane, KD4KCR reported on his experiences working with ARES during the flooding in south Georgia.

Vince, KE4DYY, Field Day Chairman, made a report on his beginning efforts to plan for Field Day '95 and asked for those interested in assisting to contact him.

Bob, KA4EMV, gave a status report on the new repeater and fielded questions from the floor. Bob will make a more in-depth report on the repeater and related issues at a future meeting.

Jack, KE4EMA, Membership Chairman, presented six individual membership applications and 3 family applications for consideration. All applications were accepted by the membership without opposition.

The new members of GARS are: Everett F. Avery, KE4PWV; Jenny Bouckaert, call pending; Tad Danley, NZ3I; Lewis Ederhardt, call pending; William Grant, KE4EOS; Joan Grant, call pending; Geir Hunsbedt, KE4ODG; Brian E. E. McCarthy, NX9O; Annalee L. McCarthy, N9KHC; James Ploschan, KD4OTB; Rene Revert, KA4ZAI; Jamie (Robbie) Robertson, KA4ATM.

Jamie, KA4ATM, presented a proposal to allow GARS to use the American Legion building in Lawrenceville as a meeting site. The proposal includes having GARS members join the post, doing some building and grounds work, and providing assistance at the weekly Saturday night dances. President Gould indicated that the club would consider the proposal.

The minutes from the July meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter with one correction. The correction is that the callsign of Frank Deak is AF4Y instead of AM4Y.

Charles, WA4QYY, gave the treasurers report indicating a beginning balance of \$3428.43 and a current balance of \$4288.31.

David, KA4KKF, reminded everyone of the upcoming GARS events that need to have volunteers step forward for. These events include: K-Mart demonstration (contact Ike, KE4GYM); September bike race (contact Charles, WA4QYY); Dyer Elementary demonstration (contact Tammy, KE4IKK); Benefield Elementary demonstration (contact Tammy, KE4IKK); Tribble Mill Park demonstration (contact Mary, KE4MFZ); SciTrek (contact David, KA4KKF).

David also announced that code classes would begin on Monday, August 22 at the GJAC from 7:30 to 8:30. The classes will last for 10 weeks and will cover from 0 to 20 wpm.

Howie asked that Ike read the members of the repeater committee and the repeater control operators.

The repeater committee is as follows: Howie Gould, W4NVF, Chairman; Bob DeVeau, KA4EMV, Co-chairman; Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA; Duane Hansen, KD4KCR; Brian McCarthy, NX9O; Dick Barnes, W4IXN; Fred Runkle, K4KAZ; Ron Davidson, K4HRB.

The repeater control operators are: Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Jack Herndon, KE4EMA; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Duane Hansen, KD4KCR; Howie Gould, W4NVF; Bob DeVeau, KA4EMV; Ron Davidson, K4HRB.

Howie, W4NVF, read the amendment to the agreement between GARS and Gwinnett County. The agreement has been accepted by GARS and the county.

The meeting was adjourned at 22:00 hours by President Gould.

(PREZ, continued from p.4)

dio demonstrations at elementary schools Dyer and Benefield we need lots and lots of volunteers with radio equipment and antennas that work both on VHF and HF, supply voltage of AC mains to be provided by the schools so you do not have to worry about voltage regulation and you can bring your best rig. Dates are October 1st and 8th, contact Tammy, KE4IKK who has all the particulars. On October 8th another event is Public Lands day, to dedicate Treble Mill Park in Grayson.

We need lots and lots of volunteers in order for this to work and it's a big event from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM so call Mary, KE4MFZ at 952-4622 or 822-8844. I can not over state the need for volunteers for these events if GARS is to grow and become one of the best if not the greatest Ham Radio clubs in metro Atlanta.

We can either sit on our duffs and contemplate, or we can get into it and do something for the hobby and the club by being part of a group of dedicated Hams committed to giving up some of their very precious time and I know it is very precious time indeed that we have to offer, but all I am asking you to do is to volunteer whatever time you have, an hour, a couple of hours, a whole day, whatever it is you can donate to GARS do it and do it now.

Make that commitment and feel good about yourself.

We have discussed at the executive meetings for some time the possibility of GARS sponsoring a big Tailgate Hamfest to bring in some revenue for the club. This would involve a big piece of land in the Gwinnett area where it could accommodate drive in traffic to park on a huge scale.

The only security we would need would be to cover the parking by GARS members to see that every one entering the area had paid their fee. Since this would be on a low scale cost to all concerned, we need not worry about providing food etc.

This event would only be for Tailgaters operating out of their vehicles on a non commercial basis. We have left open for discussion further plans for this

(PREZ, continued on p.6)

QUA

1st Wednesday - HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club
Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Dinner at 6:15. meeting is at 7:00PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club

Days Inn at I-285 and Roswell Rd. Dinner at Old Hickory House at 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
American Roadhouse Restaurant in the Dunwoody Village Shopping Center. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, program begins at 7:00PM. TI-145.41-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League
Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN
Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd Thursday

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
Meeting is at 7:30PM at the Red Cross Building, Hi-Hope Rd off Hwy 316 in Lawrenceville. Pre-Meeting fellowship dinner at 6:00PM. at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy 120, South of 316 TI-147.075+ ♦

(PREZ, continued from p.5)

event with more detail to be provided by input from the membership. In order for this to take place we would need a committee called the Tailgate Committee to be formed and appointed by myself to take charge and deliver back to the executive committee a workable plan showing place and cost of running such an event. I would like to see this take place the weekend after the Alford Memorial Hamfest as the need for a Tailgate only event will be badly needed after all the Hamfests that have gone down this year.

The weather will be mild in November and some parts of December are usually warm but I think we need to finalize it for November. If we can not do anything before the cold weather sets in, we will have to look to next year. So let me hear from interested Hams who would want to head this up otherwise no further plans will be made for this year.

The club is in good financial condition, probably the best it's been in for years. The repeater fund went into the red over the new repeater purchase drawing from the general funds so we need to give attention to giving from time to time a little for that fund.

I have instructed the Treasurer to keep this fund open and all donations we are receiving from our outside activities is to go into the repeater fund and that includes our monthly drawing of tickets at our regular meeting which I think netted us \$20.00 from our last meeting.

As we go forward with our new repeater, we will have to look at future expansion plans of exactly what the club wants to do in the way of building up our system.

Bob, KA4EMV will be presenting to us some of the options we will have as we move forward. Bob as many of you are aware of is quite talented with the program end of our repeater as well as technical knowledge.

He has been taking some of his important time at work as well as at home to see that the new machine worked as planned but due to some unfortunate circuit breakdown in the beast, he had a devil of a time getting it to conform to commands. The end result as you are all

aware of is that we had to return the machine to the manufacturer under warranty to be fixed.

Meanwhile the backup machine is working very well and we can consider ourselves in good shape in that respect.

Always in the background for the club are those individuals who contribute that extra mile so to speak making their contributions each day to GARS so we can continue to be an active organization doing things for the advancement of the hobby and to make our club an attractive one for future members. Take notice of these individuals and say hello to them whenever you come in contact with them, I am sure they would appreciate your moral support.

AD4OD, Dean our Editor who without a doubt has put together a very fine piece of newsletter that is the envy of other clubs in the area. Dean also puts a lot of time in with GARS participating in each and every event that we sponsor and is eager and ready to help newcomers and old-timers alike who confide in him.

KD4QFD, Larry our VP who is always ready to give up some of his time to see that GARS is exposed to others who can help us in our cause to have side benefits available to the membership like DXCC card checking at the club level which he is taking on as his last venture. He was instrumental in putting the bylaw changes together. He also contributes a lot of time to GARS activities with his HF mobile setup always Johnny on the spot.

Ike, KE4GYM our Secretary who having been a Ham for only about a year now, took on a tremendous job of putting the old records of GARS in order and keeping our archives up to date. He handles all club business and makes sure that all our records are indeed ready and presentable should the need arise. He is in charge of the weekly Tuesday night net, and does an outstanding job at running it. He also makes banners for our outside GARS events that are very professional in design. He is always ready and available on an instance notice to join in on our activities with a smile.

David, KA4KKF our Activities
(PREZ, continued on p.7)

(PREZ, continued from p.6)

manager who is always busy in the background trying to drum up program material for our regular meetings as well as being involved in most of our biggest events like the Atlanta Hamfest where I know he put in a tremendous amount of time. He is also part of the new code practice teaching sessions at the Justice and Administration Building.

Charles, WA4QYY our Treasurer who always sees that our books are in order and that our bills are paid. He also is involved with the Digipeater at the Snellville site and helps maintain the antennas and site material there. He from time to time acts as our tower climber in a very professional manner and was instrumental in installing our new antenna at the Lawrenceville site. He also is in charge of the yearly bike race in September that we cover.

Steve, KA9UIE who continues to serve in the capacity of teaching the no code license to those interested in Ham Radio and who may graduate to become future GARS members. Steve has been with GARS for some time now in many capacities and is a former officer of the club. He has conducted an ARES net in the past, and is very active with us today giving us his support.

Dick, W4IXN who although not as active as he would like to be, has been instrumental in establishing GARS first repeater system. The old repeater system that we use speaks well of the time and effort put into the system by him and others. Dick loves to tinker and build radio equipment and spent many an hour on the repeater system.

Fred, K4KAZ who was part of the original repeater system and who has plotted our repeater coordinating papers with SERA many times, has served in the capacity of a general advisor to the repeater committee and is now semi retired from the stress but is still prepared to serve if needed.

KA4BNG/WA4BXA Jean and Jay who are charter members who have been standing by the club over the years serving in just about every category you could imagine and they still serve as keeper of the key with the Red Cross folks making sure that we can hold our meetings. Jay was instrumental in

building the shacks for the repeater sites that we occupy and is a man of many talents.

Joe, AD4PZ who as I recall last February when I approached him about taking on our PR job said he would try, but he did not know much about it. He has done a super job in that capacity and is to be commended for his devotion to GARS. Besides running our PR, he gets into just about every outside activity with GARS and gives us support in every way. Joe also scans the photos for the GARS News and helps Jack with the printing, folding stamping and mailing of our fine newsletter.

Jack, KE4EMA who took on the Membership Committee Chairman position and has just run with it like the real pro that he is. He has donated many hours and free material to see that all new members receive a starter kit. He

ADVERTISE IN GARS NEWS

We are now accepting a limited number of advertisements for publication in the GARS News.

Contact either Jim Baker, KC4YBQ at 479-0479, Joe Biddle, AD4PZ at 963-4316 or Dean Matthews, AD4OD at 962-8941 for more information.

All of the proceeds from the sale of advertisements go to support the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, a non-profit ARRL Affiliated Special Service organization.

flies to Japan quite regular on an on again off again thing which brings him back into town every two weeks. Jack prints our newsletter through the courtesy of his employer, Lanier, and along with Joe gets it into the mail in a timely fashion.

Steve, AD4LY who is a spark plug of energy never giving up and always pitching in for GARS. He has been instrumental in GARS receiving the Lawrenceville site for our repeater and knows just about everybody in Lawrenceville. Steve although handicapped himself by having no sight, has been acting as one of our net control stations to send the code practice sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. He

loves his computer and is forever learning more each day about it.

Duane, KD4KCR another bundle of energy who has been a former President of GARS and is active in so many things that it is almost impossible to list. The bottom line is that Duane is in there pitching for GARS day in and day out with his teaching the code class to sending code practice on the Tuesday and Thursday night nets. In a short period of time because he has not been a Ham that long, he has learned a lot about Ham Radio and is eager to pass that information off to others.

Johnny, W4WKP who being another handicapped GARS member with no sight has become the ears of GARS in so many ways. Johnny is a traveling reporter for GARS in that he gets out the information about our club to every nook and cranny of the metro area through other clubs. He delivers our cover sheet about GARS to all Radio Shacks, HRO, and as many other places as he can find. He is continually on all the repeaters telling everyone about GARS and acts as a personal welcome committee in himself greeting each and every new Ham call he hears on the machine and inviting them to become a member. He is also a past President of GARS.

There are many others in the background deserving mention like Cheryl, KE4JKM a newcomer who in a short period of time took the bull by the horns to become the leader of Rookies Radio which has been most benefit to those beginners looking for help and KE4DYY/KE4DYX Vince and Vince Jr. who have cut grass at the Snellville site on a very hot day and also are heading up next years field day exercises. It takes all of these folks and then some to make GARS an interesting club to be with.. We have a fair share of YL getting involved like Tammy, KE4IKK and Mary, KE4MFZ so we are not lacking in that respect. You too can be part of GARS activities by pitching in to volunteer or suggest a program of your own that would be attractive to Ham Radio activities. If we do not have things to do as a club we will become stale and then we start to sit on our duffs doing

(PREZ, continued on p.8)

(PREZ, continued from p.7)

nothing but gripe about how bad things are going. I as your President can only provide leadership to you in your efforts to keep the club a forerunner in current events and activities, it will take you the general membership to follow the lead and I am ready to take on that challenge every day to give you the support and encouragement you need.

We will be going to Ryan's Steak House for our next meeting and fellowship dinner so be sure to bring a family member or good friend to share the evenings events with. We have both back rooms reserved so there will be plenty of space.

Jean Sager, KA4BNG informed me that she had a talk with the Red Cross about our possible changing meeting places so the Red Cross is aware of any change that might take place in the near future. I have appointed Jim, N2EST as new Chairman of the committee to seek new meeting places. This was due to a call from Steve, AD4LY relinquishing that position over to Jim because of the ability of Jim to move around more which made a whole bunch of sense to me.

As your President I would like to meet each and every one of you on a one on one basis, I welcome all the newcomers to our club and hope that your stay will be informative.

I hope we provide a relaxed enjoyable atmosphere for you as you do not need any stress or strain added to your daily routine. When you come to our meetings I want you to be ready to enjoy yourself and possibly leave with a good feeling about the hobby and yourself. I thank all members for their support and encouragement.

73, Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production ♦

October BIRTHDAYS

8th	KE4IKS	Dennis Prince
10th	KD4MQR	Richard Head
17th	AD2Q	David Rife

Information taken from the GARS Roster. Not on the list or wrong date? Let the Membership Chairman know! -Ed.

Upgrade Fever

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Whether you've just received your first license or have had one for a number of years, the next step may be:

UPGRADE!

Just the thought of upgrading scares some people to death. Some believe themselves incapable of going any farther. While others would like to but will not or cannot make the time for study - and some just don't want to.

What ever your reason to Upgrade or NOT to upgrade is, it's strictly matter of personal preference. If you were to decide to stay a Technician class all of you life and it suited your needs, that's great.

Ham radio fulfilled your interest in the hobby. However because you may like to have more frequency to communicate with or simply the need for a challenge, then good for you too! Your desire to improve your overall operating standard is commendable and rewarding.

I upgraded rather quickly - and have been accused of eating up FCC Call signs. (two others precede my current one) But had it not been for the great technical discussions I heard on the airwaves and the patience of others to my technical queries posed to some of the GARS members, I might not have fared so well. There are lots of good study materials out there to get you through any of the theory elements you want to challenge. I preferred the series produced for Radio Shack by Gordon West, and use the "Look Who's Talkin" by the ARRL as a supplemental study source.

"But I want to really learn the Written element contents not just memorize the questions and answers together." Well they just about go hand in hand. Once you've memorized a question with the correct answer and still don't understand it, read some additional literature on the subject. There were things that made no sense to me whatsoever, but knowing the correct answer was imperative. So after reviewing

the material quite a number of times, this fellow's coconut called a brain, finally retained the information. For example: Part of the Extra Class question pool are several questions based on antenna patternization. So it would be impossible without having the experience or education in physics and antenna pattern technology to determine by reasonable deduction. But by making silly visual associations with each questions I found myself able to recognize the radiation pattern produced by two 1/2 wave vertical antennas, 180 degrees out of phase, with 1/8 wavelength separation.

The CODE is another story. Trying to make sense of a bunch of little tones heard is like trying to communicate with someone in a foreign language, who mumbles with a stutter and

(UPGRADE, continued on p.9)

WORK GARS

REPEATER

GARS 2-Meter
FM repeater 147.075 ^{mHz +800}

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in
Sci-Atl phone BBS 903-5487

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 ^{mHz}

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 147.03 ^{mHz}

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS Repeater. 147.075 ^{mHz}

MORSE CODE PRACTICE SESSION

An interactive Morse Code practice session immediately follows the 8:00P.M. Tuesday night net on the GARS repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00P.M..

(UPGRADE, continued from p.80)

has a poorly formed accent. But with practice, like most things, abilities improve. Learning the Code to the individual is as different as our tastes radios and antennas.

The following statistics of License Classes were calculated using the very latest GARS roster.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Percent of total members</i>
Unlicensed	5	3%
Novice	0	0.0%
Technician	61	39.6%
Technician+	17	11.0%
General	16	10.3%
Advanced	30	19.4%
Extra	25	16.2%

AD4PZ

Some say the key to picking up code is to have a rhythm or musical aptitude. Others insist that a mental visual acuity is the key to exceptional copy. Whatever your background or ability is, you won't pick up the code if you don't put forth the effort. There are other code learning methods too, don't be afraid to ask someone. You'll find that quite a number of hams are more than willing to help you out.

You might say: "Why should I upgrade?" My upgrade incentive was fueled by the prospect of the vast frequency privileges allotted just by going from Tech-Plus to General. The extra frequency allocations awarded for going from General to Advanced and from Advanced to Extra, isn't all that great so it's a personal preference. Mine was the challenge of it. (and to get it all over with) plus the fact I'm inquisitive.

The very first time I went to take my 5 word per minute the VE's said for me to give the 20WPM test a shot. Well I copied 100% of the letters "E" and "O", the rest sounded like mosquitoes. Once in while Duane (KD4KCR) and Steve (AD4LY) would hook up on the repeater and get into a really good conversation, when one would suggest they finish over on 10 meters Charlie Whiskey style.

Well I wanted to know what they and others were saying, but their code

speed was beyond my copy ability. So the only way I was going to find out was to improve my copy speed. (or record it and slow the playback) heh heh.

Whatever your goals are remember, Amateur Radio is Based on pursuit. Chasing rare DX, Finding the "Fox",

ROOKIE RADIO NOTES

by Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM

It's September! Time to go back to school rookies!

The GARS Morse Code Class is underway on Monday nights at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building in Lawrenceville at 7:30 p.m.. We have had two classes so far and thanks to Duane, KD4KCR, and David, KA4KKF, they have been a blast.

Everyone will be up to 20 WPM before they realize what's happening. We meet in the Private Dining room in the back of the Cafeteria. Just walk in the front door and keep going straight back. Follow the sounds of hear and spell and you'll be there. There is no fee for this class.

There is also a No Code Technician License Class beginning at Meadowcreek High School (4455 Steve Reynolds Boulevard) on September 21. The class will meet on Wednesdays from 7-9:30 p.m. and there is a fee of \$15 (plus supplies). Just call 381-2548 from 2-9:30 p.m. to register.

Would any of you be interested in another antenna building class? At the last one we built both VHF and HF antennas. If you are trying to use a HT from your home to reach the repeater, an outside antenna will make all the difference in the world. If there is enough interest, I will persuade one of our experts to give us a hand. Just let me know you are interested (995-5159) and I'll set it up.

PUBLIC LANDS DAY

REMINDER... GARS is set to demonstrate amateur radio at Public Lands Day to be October 8th from 10:00 AM until about 4:30 PM. Help is needed to man the event. Please contact Mary Bachner, KE4MFZ at home; 952-4622, or at her office; 822-8844 to volunteer to help demonstrate Amateur Radio and promote GARS.

searching for a packet node or perfecting an antenna design. Pursue your goals with the enthusiasm and professionalism the hobby commands, whether it's upgrading your license class or upgrading your inventory of Knowledge & Radio Equipment.

VE STATISTICS

The following is a report of the GARS sponsored W5YI-VE activities since 1/94.

total applicants=60
upgrade=30
failed=30
elements passed=65
elements failed=29
total=94
code 1A= 6 pass 4 fail
code 1B=1 pass 9 fail
code 1C=1 pass
element 2=24 pass 6 fail
element 3= 23 pass 7 fail
element 3B=5 pass 2 fail
element 4A=5 Pass
element 4B=2 fail

Note: The "fail" statistics are misleading since the VE's encourage almost all applicants to try the next level over the one they pass, even if they haven't studied for it at all.

TECHNOBABBLE

BY 84-ODE

The purpose of "Q" signals is to convey commonly used thoughts in a more efficient manner on C.W., so why do so many people say "QSL" (3 syllables) to answer to the affirmative on phone when they could simply say "yes" (1 syllable)?

Other audio anomalies heard recently and thoughts that come to mind:

"I am Mo-Blin'!" (*I am Mo-Sick!*)

"I am Destinated." (*Perhaps a high fiber diet would help.*)

"Could I get a radio check?" (*How much would you like it made out for?*)

"Let's switch channels to..." (*Your chicken-band is showing!*)

And finally, those things in your backyard holding up your antennas aren't called pine trees anymore, now they are:

ORGANIC TOWERS.



"Listen, OM... I was on this frequency first and I'm not moving! Nobody owns a frequency - so take your geriatric buddies up the band and bother somebody else. You're splattering all over the band, your mike gain's too high, you have RF in your audio, and your mother dresses you funny! Buzz off, Lidface!"

A Thank You to Ike, KE4GYM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ike, KE4GYM, for taking the time to help my family and I a couple of weeks ago.

The battery had died in my car and a service station owner tried for 40 minutes to get enough charge in the battery with one of those portable start carts to get the car started. But to no avail. I did however have enough power to run my trusty 2M rig.

A courteous break from the on-going QSO and I asked if anyone nearby had a set of jumper cables (their station didn't and I had left my in my garage). Ike said he did and was only about ten minutes from me and on his way. The service station owner said that if he couldn't get it going from the start cart, we couldn't do it from any old mini van (Ike has an Aerostar also). Of course, he was trying to sell me a \$70 battery!

Well, Ike shows up and two minutes later my car started first try. The service station owner said that was sure a

powerful battery. I told him that no, it was the power of ham radio.

But really it was the power of a good a helpful friend like Ike. Ham radio is a lot of fun, but it is the opportunity to meet great people like Ike that I think I enjoy the most.

Thanks Ike. My family and I owe you one again.

Sincerely,

Rick Morris, KD4VOJ

GARS W5YI-VEC TEST SESSION

4th Friday at St. John Neumann Church at 801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn. Contact Howie Gould, W4NWF at 921-8362.

Walk-In Exams - Headphones!

HAM RIDDLES

BY AD4OD

- What do you call the scientific study of antenna supports?
- An amateur who is impressed by another's station is called what?
- What federal agency monitors the ham radio spectrum?
- What do you call a stupid, inept operator?
- What time is used on all the oceans of the world?
- What do you do when your Yagi falls down?
- A warped, out-of-band signal is called a what?

ANSWERS: 1-Mastromony
2-Hammarized 3-Dipolice 4-Liquid
5-Maritime 6-Beadoman it 7-Spurret

ARES

News

by Pat Runkle, KC4DOO

Just a reminder of upcoming ARES events for the month of September.

Thanks to the GARS membership and Executive Board, the ARES net is scheduled to begin on September 7th at 8:00PM on the GARS repeater. Originally set for the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, but maybe in we could do it every week with GARS permission.

ARES training sessions will begin on September 26th from 7:30PM to 9:00PM at the Justice and Administration Center on Langley drive in Lawrenceville in Conference Room- "C" and will be for ARES orientation.

The 2nd session will be given by AD4JU, Chuck Calmbacher who is the ARES District Emergency Co-Ordinator (DEC), and will cover message handling and will be on October 24th at the same time and place as the first session.

The third session is to be on November 14th, at the same time and place. This one will cover hazardous materials and will also be given by Chuck, AD4JU. A book for this session may be purchased that evening for \$4.00, to cover its cost.

All ARES members and interested Hams are invited to attend, but since seating is limited, please let me know if you plan to attend. drop me a card, tell me on the net or phone me and leave a message. See you there!

Pat Runkle, KC4DOO
PO Box 351
Buford, GA 30518
945-6356

REMINDER

On Saturday, October 8, Benefield Elementary will be having their Fall Festival from 10:00 AM until 4:00PM.

I have arranged for us to have a booth or table set up in the cafeteria where we can demonstrate Amateur Radio to elementary age school children, their siblings and parents.

We will need folks to man the table all day, so please contact me if you can take a spot.

Benefield Elementary is located at the intersection of Old Norcross Road and Cruse Road, near Atkinson Road and Hwy 316.

Call Tammi Ford, KE4IKK at 822-1749 for more information. ♦

6-95

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GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORT FORM)

Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ___ / ___ / ___ Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work-Phone: _____ Fax-Phone: _____

Type of membership: []-Individual []-Family ARRL Member? Y/N _____ Life? Y/N _____

Additional members for Family Memberships:

NAME: _____

CALLSIGN: _____

CLASS (circle 1)

E A G T + T N

BIRTH DATE

ARRL

Y/N

LIFE?

Y/N

E A G T + T N

Y/N

Y/N

Y/N

Y/N

E A G T + T N

Y/N

Y/N

Y/N

Y/N

Check Interests:

[]-Class instruction []-Field Day operation []-Repeater maintenance []-Gars club booth staffing []-Community events
[]-Emergency []-Administrative []-Fund raisers

[]Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

From Jan 1 to March 31

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

\$8.75 for Family Memberships

Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226



Atlanta Metro Area VE/VEC Examination Schedules From SERA Repeater Journal and other sources. Published as a service to its members, GARS assumes no responsibility for errors or schedule changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in.

1st Sunday - Lawrenceville W5YI-VEC - Jackson EMC
461 Swanson Rd - Lawrenceville - 2:00PM
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 962-9582

1st Monday - Roswell ARRL-VEC 7:30PM
St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758

1st Saturday - Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850

2nd Sundays - First Presbyterian Church
183 West Main Street, Cartersville 3:00PM
Mark Swicord, KD4EYF - 975-1309

2nd Tuesday - Walton EMC 7:00PM
3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759

2nd Saturday - Stn Mtn CA-VEC 8:30AM
Stone Mountain-Methodist Church
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160

3rd Saturdays - Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319 - 9:00AM
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171

4th Sunday N Atlanta ARRL-VEC - Episcopal Church of the Atonement
2:30PM - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta
John King, AB4GK - 381-5291

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NWF 921-3362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sept	24?	<u>Lanierland ARC Hamfest, Gainesville GA</u>
Sept	24?	Hamfest, Anniston, AL
Sept	24 ..	Hamfest, New Port Richie, FL
Oct	1 ...	Hamfest Gallatin, TN
Oct	1-2 ..	Miss State ARRL Conv & Hamfest Biloxi, MS
Oct	8-9 ..	<u>Fall Antique Radio Swap Meet, Atlanta 233-1340</u>
	<u>I-85 & N. Druid Hills Rd.</u>
Oct	15 ..	Hamfest Waycross, GA
Oct	15 ..	<u>3rd Black Warrior Swapfest Tuscaloosa, AL</u>
Oct	15 ..	Hamfest Stark, FL
Oct	22-23	Hamfest Chattanooga, TN
Oct	29 ..	Computer Show & Hamfest Mobile, AL

HAMFESTS CANCELLED

Sept	10 ..	Statesboro, GA
Oct	2 ..	<u>Rome, GA</u>
Oct	29 ..	Forest City, NC

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.
Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

SEPTEMBER 15th
GARS MEETING AT
RYAN'S STEAK HOUSE
on Hwy 120



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS Meeting at RYAN'S STEAK HOUSE on Hwy 120 in Lawrenceville on the 3rd Thursday, September 15th. Join us for fun and fellowship at 6:30PM. You don't have to eat, if not hungry just come to the back!